Bernal Journal

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ELSIE STREET WINS

By Margaret Randolph

On July 13, 1978, the San Francisco City Planning Commission accepted Resolution No. 8017, with some amendments, by a vote of 6 to 1. This amended resolution was the acceptance of our Elsie Street Plan, on a one-year experimental basis.

It recognized the Neighborhood Building Review Board, established by the Northwest Bernal Block Club, as an advisory body to the Department of City Planning with respect to new construction on the 100 block of Elsie Street.

The staff of the Department of City Planning will continue to do its job of processing new construction permit requests against the usual code requirements. On receipt of permit requests, it will notify our Building Review Board (BRB) of proposed new construction.

Hopefully, the developer/builder will already have contacted us and presented his plans to the BRB at a meeting open to neighborhood residents (owners and renters), so that the BRB can determine to what extent the developer/builder/architect referred to the guidelines set out in the Elsie Street Plan.

Our BRB guidelines state that this first meeting will be for information purposes only -- questions and answers. No comments of approval or disapproval are to be made at this time by the neighbors and block club members.

Following this hearing the BRB will work with the developer/builder/architect (reporting its progress to the Planning Department), and hopefully reach a general agreement within 1 to 3 months. The BRB will then be able to recommend a "do-pass" to the Department of City Planning.

Members of this Building Review Board are: (1) Mel Tatspaugh. Home owner - 8 Winfield Street. 15 years in the neighborhood. Architect, licensed in the State of California. Worked for 15 years with various architectural firms, now self-employed. (2) Margaret Randolph Home owner - 72 Winfield Street. 19 years in the neighborhood. Engineer-

Continued on back page

Turn of the century street improvements by local residents. A road was being dug to allow horse drawn wagons to pass. The house in the picture was a market then and still stands at the corner of Costa and Brewster. Photo courtesy of Mabel Anderson and Family.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVIEW BOARD

By
Phil Johnson

The passage of the Elsie Street Plan by the Planning Commission has touched off a controversy with the developer Richard Alvarez threatening law suits against the Planning Commission and the Northwest Bernal Block Club, the Planning Department director being

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The Bernal Journal is an open forum of the community sponsored by the Bernal Fund. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with neighborhood news, ideas, issues and events. Articles with by-lines express the views of the individual writers. Editorial decisions are made by the staff.

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The next meeting of the Bernal Journal is Wed. Sept. 13 at 8p.m. at 62 Winfield Street. Anyone who would like to participate is invited.

***

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BERNAL NOTES

Tues. Aug. 8. Children's Movies at 10:30a.m., 2:00 and 4:00

Wed. Aug. 9. 3 fun films for adults. Doonesbury Special. 7:30p.m.

Tues Aug. 22. # movies about pets for children. 10:30a.m. 2:00 and 4:00.

Wed. Aug. 23. Film on Georgia O'Keefe

***

Alabama Ripley Block Club.

There will no meeting of the block club in August. The next meeting is Sept. 6 7:30p.m. at the Precita Center. Sup. Lee Dolson will be on hand for a question and answer period. Please attend.

***

The Nanny Goat Hill Gallery is having a exhibition of drawings and collage by Robert Rockola from Aug. 4 through 29. There will be a preview party on Friday Aug. 4 at 7:30p.m. Hours : 12 to 4, closed Mondays or by appointment. 552-3898.

ELSIE STREET CONTROVERSY

Continued from page 1

critized by building interests in the city and the block club savoring the victory of a precedent setting Neighborhood Building Review Board.

The main stumbling block to building in the area remains the road, Elsie Street, best described as a rollercoaster for cars that hugs the steep Western face of Bernal Hill. Until the road is widened to permit the safe access of fire vehicles, no new building permits will be issued for the 100 block of the street.

The main issue in the controversy over Elsie Street is the role of a neighborhood in the planning process. All parties, including the developers who have or want to build on the street, agree that there should be neighborhood input in the planning process. The controversy arises out of the extent of such input, with the builders favoring limited input; the neighborhood favoring extensive input.

According to the Planning Commission's decision, all new building, if any is built, must conform "to the spirit of the Elsie Street Plan", a 120 page document devloped by the block club. The neighborhood review board would be the vehicle by which builders and the neighborhood could work out their differences.

Lou Blazej of the Planning Department staff said the Elsie Street Plan, with the review board, was an experiment for the department. Planning would be watching the review procedure carefully to determine how it was working.

Alvarez, a builder who for two years has tried to push through the construction of seven single family homes on Elsie Street, and the block have been unable to work together. The builder said that he will seek a court decision as to whether the review board and the plan are legal, arguing that the Planning Commission erred in turning over part of its planning function to the neighborhood group.

"I have not interest in working with the Elsie Street Group. They're trying to tell me what to do. I'm opposed on principle," Alvarez said. "this takes a decision from a court of law. Then I'll cooperate with the group."

The developer claims that the neighborhood "just doesn't want me to build on Elsie Street". The block club has charged Alvarez with "fraud, lies and an inability to face reality," according to Roger Borgenicht, the director of the Elsie Street study and one of five people appointed by the block to the review board.

"Our group has proven to be reasonable in its application of the guidelines of the plan. Hopefully the review board will be a mechanism for the neighbors and builders to get together." Borgenicht said.

The big question mark is the street widening plan. The block club's plan calls for street improvements totaling $500,000. Alvarez has a street widening plan fronting his seven lots costing $40,000. The Planning Department has indicated that the builder's plan is inadequate. The block club plan calls for the city to build the street. At present, there is no money available for new street construction in the Department of Public Works budget. Buck Bagot, a staff worker for the block club, said that it might prove unfeasible to widen Elsie Street, resulting in no new building on the street.

The block club is presently applying for state and federal grants to allow them to widen the street, acquire vacant lots and to construct median income housing on Elsie Street and in other parts of Bernal Heights. The block club plans to set up a community development corporation to handle the grants.

According to Bagot, the proposals are now being considered and indicated he thought they would be granted. Bagot also said the block club would be receiving some Vista workers.

The concept of a neighborhood review board is new to this city. Every neighborhood in San Francisco will be watching developments in Bernal Heights as the experiment unfolds. The performance of the review board will be the cutting edge in any future decisions by the Planning Department of the role to be played by neighborhoods in the planning process.

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Running on the Heights

By Michael Kazin

This summer in Bernal Heights, there seem to be more people out running than I've ever seen before. There are many good reasons to be hitting the streets. You can sweat off pounds, lower your blood pressure, and improve your lung capacity greatly. Also, many runners report that they are more alert and have more energy while needing less sleep. Best of all, you don't need any special skills or coordination to be a regular runner: just enough money for a good pair of shoes [from $20 to $40] and the determination to get out there three or more times a week in the ideal climate [for runners anyway] of San Francisco.

People who've been running for a while all have favorite spots to do their miles. When I have time, I like to run through Golden Gate Park or on the beach when the tide is out [check the tides published in the daily papers]. But Bernal Heights contains places that are marvelous both for beginning runners and for anyone else who likes to run less than five miles at a time and to do it close to home. Some suggestions:

1. THE STREETS: Good for seeing the neighborhood and checking out the action but the hills are a killer and the concrete may grind your feet, knees, and back to jerky applesauce. I don't recommend it unless you're really pinched for time.

2. AROUND BERNAL HILL: Asphalt surface, about a mile around. Moderate incline all the way[up and down] a fine view of the city and the bay. Watch out for cars darting around the corners. When running on the road, it's a good idea to stay on the left-hand side so you can see what's doing and they can see you.

3. HOLLY PARK: Asphalt walkway with grass and dirt on the side, about 1/3 of a mile around. Good view of the bay and docks with a very slight incline.

4. ST. MARY'S PARK: At least two routes in this windy park off Crescent Street. It's about 1/4 of a mile on the outside of the field and probably 1/2 a mile if you run down to the tennis courts and back up the hilly trail. A combination of asphalt grass and dirt.

5. GLEN PARK: Outside our neighborhood but worth the trip. If you want to run it's about a mile from the Safeway on Mission Street to the park [Go on Mission to Randall to Chenery]. Once there, it's about 1/3 of a mile around the gently sloping grass field, but try the one mile loop through the eucalyptus trees past the recreation center. If you have the taste for some steep cross country, make your way past the child care center up the incline which ends at the quarter mile track of MacAteer High School. I'd only recommend this for the sure-footed: the trail curves and dips and is narrow.

However, except during the rains when the mud wipes it out completely, the route is challenging but short enough for the adrenalin rush to get you through it.

Afew things to remember about this sport: make sure you stretch for five minutes or more before and after you run and increase your speed or distance very gradually. See you in the sweat.

ELECTION RESULTS

By
Mike Mason

As the accompanying data charts show, Bernal Heights voters took a different tack than the rest of the voters in San Francisco and the rest of California.

In the most contoversial measure on the ballot, Prop 13, while California's voters gave the measure a 2 to 1 victory and San Francisco voters narrowly defeated it, Bernal Heights rejected Jarvis Gann by almost 3 to 2.

The vote is Bernal is unusual as Bernal Heights is one of the major enclaves of homeowners in the city with about 65% owner occupied residencies, which is the reverse of city-wide statistics.

The other significant measure was Prop L, a policy statement by the voters to determine whether to elect a Charter Commission to review and rewrite the City Charter. The measure won city-wide with 53% of the vote. In Bernal, 58% of the voters were in favor of the proposition. The passage of the measure means that San Francisco voters will probably be faced with a Charter Commission election in November, an election that could determine the course of the city for years to come.

The election for the Democratic County Central Committee in the 16th Assembly District featured two Bernal Heights residents, Michael Nolan and Nancy Walker. Nolan finished second in Bernal to Kay Pachtner, with Walker just behind Nolan. Walker was on a slate headed by Pachtner and won election.

Bernal's elction turnout was slightly behind the 16th district average of 54% with a turnout of 52%. City-wide 58% turned out to vote.

Data Chart

Prop. 13	Yes	No
Bernal Heights	41.1%	58.9%
9th Sup. Dist.	44.1%	55.9%
16th A.D.	41.0%	59.0%
City wide	47.3%	52.7%

Prop.13 Here

By
Nancy Walker

For the present it appears that Bernal Heights will escape Prop. 13 relatively unscathed. The present being right now - this year. We are affected by the closing of the Alemany Emergency Aid Station and it is unclear which, if any of our schools may close.

The Unified School District has stated that it plans to close 14 or more schools city-wide as a direct result of the passage of Prop. 13. Adult classes offered by the Community College are also in question.

Some effects from Prop 13 have begun to be felt in the city: cutbacks in Medi-Cal, cuts at S. F. General Hospital, Laguna Honda and other health reductions; the elimination of pay raises for state and local government employees; large scale layoffs.

The full effect of Prop. 13 will not be felt until next year when the huge state surplus has been largely used up.

Often overlooked is the impact Prop. 13 will have on Federal funds coming into the state. Federal Grants are generally made for a specific period of time and require the local entity receiving the grant to pick up the program after a few years. Washington is carefully watching California to determine if local governments and agencies will have the financial capability to take over programs that are currently funded. Also most federal grants require local and state governments to contribute matching funds to every grant.

Bernal Heights has few services and these must be kept, such as the Library, the temporary neighborhood center, Precita Center, the Bernal gym and Precita Park.

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DEPENDABILITY

Esmeralda Park

By Michael Nolan

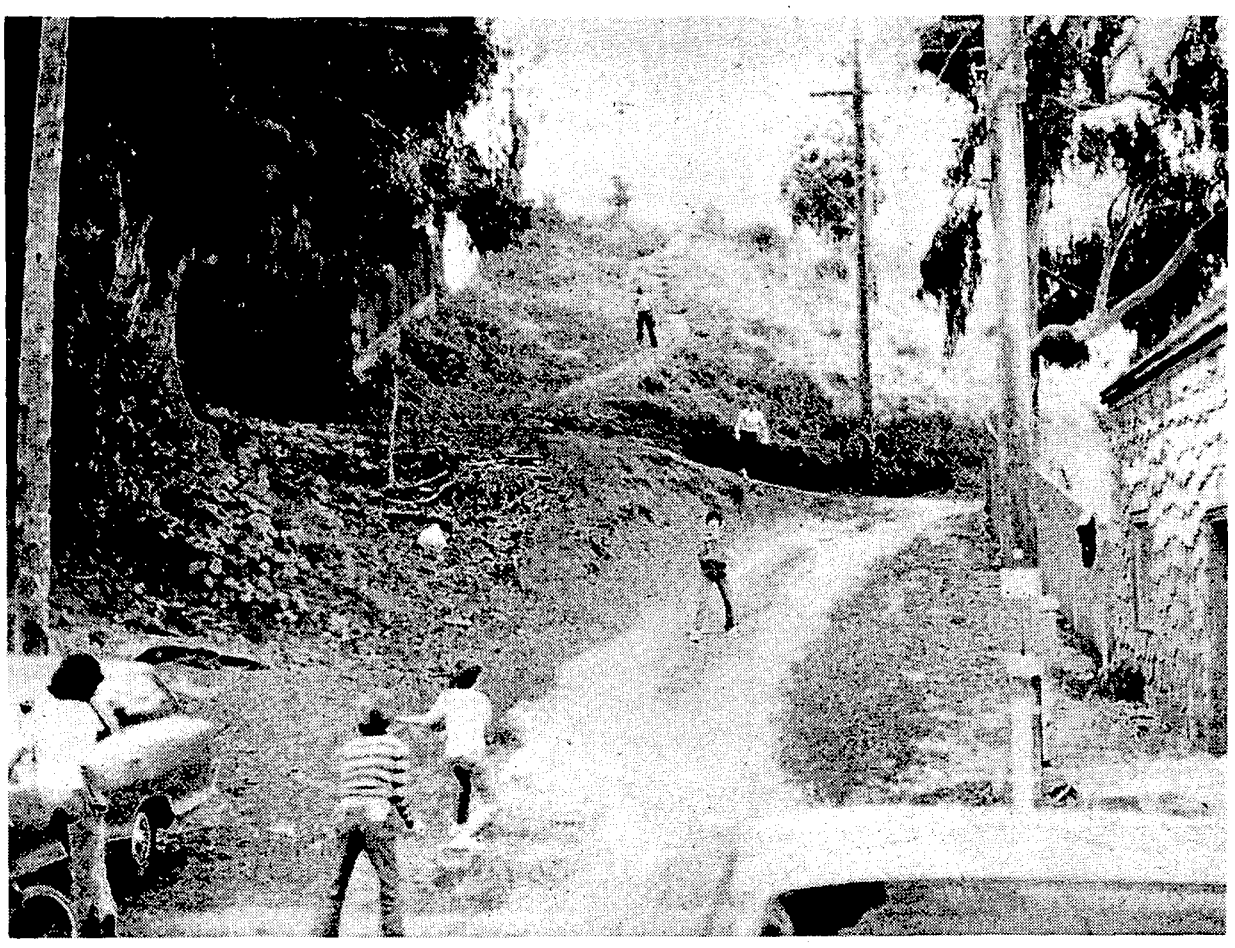
After years of effort, members and friends of the Northwest Bernal Block Club will begin work on the Esmeralda Mini-Park in August. The mini-park will be located along the Esmeralda Steps between Winfield Street and Prospect Avenue and is paid for by federal Community Development funds under the City's Neighborhood Initiated Improvement Program. The Block Club will furnish the labor, the tools and maintain the mini-park after it is completed.

The highlight of the park will be two steel hillside wave slides with 42-foot bedways. There will also be a play structure at the base of the slide. Picnic tables and potted plants will be placed on the Winfield Landing above. The entire area will be landscaped.

The mini-park project had been stymied for months until the Board of Supervisors voted earlier this year to "vacate" this particular stretch of Esmeralda which legally changed it from a street to a park. This has the effect of releasing any abutting property owners from liability for the park.

The Mini-Park Committee of the Northwest Bernal Block Club which has brought this project to fruition includes Jon Toven, Linda Canaga, Bob and Margaret Randolph, Debra Busta, Leo Rentillo, Phoebe McAfee, Richard Van Kooy and Michael Nolan. They have received special assistance from Suzanne Smith of the City Planning Department and playground Architect Andy Butler.

Work is scheduled to begin on Saturday morning, August 5. If you wish to help or can supply some tools such as shovels, picks and posthole diggers, call the Block Club at 826-3959 or Michael Nolan at 824-2398.



M-H-G GREEN BELT PROPOSAL

By
Bob Dutra

A green belt proposal including four city blocks west from Holladay to Franconia St. is taking shape under the direction of the Mullen-Holladay Group.

All the property being considered belongs either to the state or the city. No costly improvements are planned. The project will depend on the approval, support and participation of the neighborhood.

Help in realizing this project has come from the District Supervisor Lee Dolson and from Assemblyman Art Agnos.

Mavis Toscano, Agnos' aide, has researched the possibility of opening up a section of green belt located on state property bordering the James Lick Freeway and Holladay Ave.

This section is planted in trees and shrubs which act as a sound barrier. It is cut off from use by a cyclone fence. The Department of Transportation is investigating the possibility of removing about two blocks of the fence.

From Holladay west up Rutledge to Brewster and Mullen are sections of city right-of-ways too steep to be paved. These sections adjoin five lots between Brewster and Franconia, which presently belonged to the state due to unpaid taxes.

Dolson has pursued the possibility of the city acquiring these lots which contain an impressive grove of euclyptus trees and a community garden.

Neighborhood meetings to discuss the pros and cons of these proposals will be scheduled and announced.

BERNAL HEIGHTS

The PRESIDENT'S Corner

By Rex Coultas

At a small meeting on June 12, 1978 at the Precita Park Cafe(for whose gracious hospitality we would like to acknowledge our sincere gratitude), elections were held for the new officers of the Bernal Heights Association.

As its new president, I would like first to extend my appreciation to Nancy Walker, outgoing president, who served the association so well this past year. I feel she did an outstanding job and should be congratulated on her capable leadership. I am also pleased to announce that she won her bid for a spot on the Democratic Committee in the June 6 primary elections. Well done, Nancy. Thanks and good luck in your new job!

Jerry Schwartz, who has been serving as treasurer of the Bernal Journal for the past year, introduced a new and more efficient system for keeping records and sending statements to Bernal Journal advertisers, and we are happy to welcome him to his new post of Treasurer of the Bernal Heights Association.

As our newly elected secretary, Carrie Ewing has shown a willingness to bring new vitality and fresh ideas to the office. Welcome aboard, Carrie!

We have planned what we think will be an interesting program for our September meeting. Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Dolson have been invited and we are hoping that they will be able to attend.

The meeting is set for Tuesday evening September 12, 1978, at 8 p.m. in the new hall of St. Kevin's church at 704 Cortland Avenue. We would love to have you attend so be sure to mark your calender now.

All are welcome to attend and light refreshments will be served following the meeting which will begin promptly at 8:00 p.m.
See you there!

SALAMANDERS!

By Steve Chapple

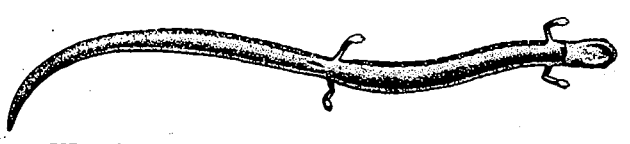
In the soaring tradition of our Bird Over Bernal columns we would like to introduce you to another animal which calls Bernal Heights home. Our feet are on the ground for this creature: the California Slender Salamander.

The Slender Salamander is one of the least vicious animals in California unless you happen to be an aphid or a fruit fly. Then you've got a problem because this salamander loves small insects as well as sowbugs, earthworms, and baby slugs.

Right at the start we should make a few distinctions. The California Slender Salamander, like other salamanders, is not a lizard. A lizard is a reptile like a snake, and it has scales and claws. A salamander has smooth skin like a frog. And although it is an amphibian just like a frog, it has the longer body shape of a lizard. The body of the Slender Salamander is so long and thin that it even gets mistaken for a little garden worm, but it's not that either. This salamander can't break ground like a worm. It borrows the burrows of other animals.

Slender Salamanders can be found all over Bernal Heights especially in the winter or after a rain. They hang out under boards or logs, and like very much to wriggle through damp oak matter.

I once found three under a brick in the back yard of my apartment on



Winfield Street. I popped them into a moist terrarium, expecting a nice docile pet, one as quiet as a geranium and hopefully a little more interesting. The three salamanders never barked or howled on the back fence. They never asked us to turn down the television. Instead they went on a hunger strike. Mealy worms and slugs were rejected as too big. Nobody would allow me to bring ants in the house voluntarily.

So I called the Fleishacker Zoo. Since the zoo now charges $2 admission, I figured it could offer one subscriber an extra service.

"Simple," said the curator who answered the phone. "Put a banana in the terrarium. Let it get good and rotten, and you'll soon have plenty of fruitflies for the salamanders."

This advice had a certain amount of logic to it, this was true, but it mademe wonder if I'd gotten the zoo's janitor on the phone, playing a joke. Maybe cleaning up after tree toads had moulted his sense of humor.

I returned the salamanders to their brick.

Just to keep this account scientific, let me equip you with a few more salamander facts. Their skin is like a membrane. It's porous. They can keep cool (and clammy) by passing water through their skins to evaporate. Some kinds, I'm not sure about the Slender Salamanders under Bernal, even get soggy like graham crackers in milk if they can't pull themselves out of the water to sun from time to time. The Bernal varieties lay their eggs underground. They are two-and-a-half to five inches long. Sometimes they feel more comfortable coiled up. Males and females look pretty much alike, even to the experts. Salamanders do not like fire at all, despite what mythology tells us, and unless you've found otherwise, they're not very tasty fried, fileted or parboiled.

Next issue we take on some Big Game: the Bernal Bears.

Halfway House Meeting Held

The question of whether or not to locate a Geriatric Halfway House at 73 Anderson Street in Bernal Heights was discussed by approximately 50 residents at a meeting on July 31 in the new hall of St. Kevin's Church.

The meeting was called by the Southeast Mental Health District Community Advisory Board as part of a site approval process. Since opposition to the facility by several residents in the surrounding block materialized prior to the meeting, it was decided by the opposing group and the Southeast Board to allow the Bernal Heights Community Board Program to run the meeting and perhaps mediate the dispute.

The Geriatric Program is to be administered by the Progress Foundation and will house older mentally ill patients for three to six months on the average. The house will have a total of six patients at a time.

Opposition to the facility centered around the question of the suitability of the immediate neighborhood for a "public" facility of this type. The opposing residents also pointed to the steepness of the hill and relative isolation of older people in the site at 73 Anderson.

Residents from other parts of the neighborhood expressed support for the program as did several residents from the blocks around the proposed site.

No resolution was reached at the meeting. The Community Advisory Board called the meeting in order to hear the feelings of residents regarding the site location. The Board will hold its next regular meeting on August 14 when it will vote whether or not to reccomend approval of the 73 Anderson St. location.

Permits Improvements

By R. J. Dutra

Had any difficulty getting a building or remodeling permit--or fighting one--lately?

According to Mary Burns, from the Mayor's Office, "everyone is dissatisfied with the system as it is now." Applicants are dissatisfied with the complicated and long process, while neighborhood groups complain of late notification and lack of local input.

Mayor George Moscone is forming a committee, chaired by Supervisor Ron Pelosi and to include City Staff, builders and community organizations, to review and improve the permit process.

Formation of this committee was announced at the July 27th meeting of the District Nine Community Council. Charter revision, the budget process, and Proposition 13's impact on the budget were also discussed.

Some early suggestions for improving the permit process include an information sheet explaining each step to new applicants, coordinating the various departments which review permits, and earlier notification to neighborhoods of the intention to build or remodel.

Mike McGill, also from the Mayor's Office, said there are so many checks and balances written into the 40 year old charter that it hinders governmental efficiency.

He cited the budget process as an example. Presently it is prepared by civil service employees from the various departments and agencies. It is then submitted to the Mayor and Supervisors who may cut it, but not add to it.

McGill said the process has to be changed in order to comply with the fixed property tax rate imposed by Proposition 13. He said priorities should be set so that the budget reflects which kinds of services are possible at what price.

The Mayor hopes to have public budget hearings this Fall to set those priorities while the budget is being prepared.

District Nine representation on the Permit Process Committee, on Charter revision, and on budget review and preparation will be discussed at the August meeting of the Community Council.

A local citizens initiative to limit federal military spending and to divert that money into "Jobs for Peace" will also be discussed.

The meeting will be held in the Glen Park Clubhouse, August 24th at 8:00 P.M. All District Nine residents and organizations are welcome to attend.

Summer On The Hill

By Barbara M. Pitschel

Summer is never the season during which our hill looks its most beautiful but most years offer plenty for the eager observer to see. Despite the tremendous show of Spring wildflowers after the heavy rains, there are very few summer flowers to be seen.

In other years several patches of the hill have been severely burned as a result of 4th of July pyromania. Other parts have remained unchanged. This year our Fire Department decided to remove any hope that the hill would be spared by doing a controlled burning of the entire surface.

Although there is much to be said for the beneficial effects of periodic burning on plant communities, I doubt that principles of plant management were a consideration in setting the fire.

The result is that, aesthetically at least, the hill is a disappointment this summer.

So what can be seen? The American kestrels [sparrow hawks], about which I have previously written, are riding the thermals in search of grasshoppers. Swallows dart around the south slopes catching flying insects. There are some butterflies- the buckeye, beautiful in shades of brown and rust with an eyespot on each wing is my favorite. There is a little black insect with a red hourglass on its back that is uniquely beautiful. I don't know what it is.

There are lots of dandelions. Wild mustard, an introduced edible weed is prevalent. A few California poppies are in bloom. A very pretty non-native plant grows in the gully behind the fence to the right of the Ellsworth Street stairs. It is called Mourning Bride [Scabiosa atropurpurea]. A member of the Teasel Family [Dipsaceae] which is similar to the sunflower family [Compositae], its flower closely resembles thistles, especially after they have gone to seed. Inflorescences can vary from white to pink to purple. Like the sweet peas that also grow along the south slope, this species is a garden escapee that has become successful in the wild.

The willows, coyote brush, and elderberries have been severely burned, as have many bush lupines. One of the trees serving as a windbreak for the community garden was killed. Our heavy crop of blackberries, which usually provide pleasant repasts for both human and avian residents, has been largely decimated.

Most of our summer-blooming wildflowers were burned off before they had a chance to flower.

There are still a couple of Wild Buckwhaats [Eriogonum latifolium] in bloom, and maybe there will be more by the time this is printed. I saw one near the road on the north slope. Perhaps a buckwheat hunt would add interest to a walk on the hill!

This member of the Buckwheat Family [Polygonaceae] is able to grow under adverse conditions such as rocky soil an strong winds. On our hill stems rarely exceed a foot in height. The leaves, which are fuzzy, are concentrated near the base of the stems and have silvery-white undersides. Many tiny pink and white flowers are grouped in each inflorescence or flower head forming soft little balls which resemble popcorn or cotton candy.

I hope that by the next time the Journal rolls around, the hill will again be able to inspire.

Wild Buckwheat
(Eriogonum latifolium)

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EAST SLOPE SURVEY UNVEILED

By R. J. Dutra

If there is one thing we agree on, it is the good weather enjoyed on the eastern side of Bernal Heights. More than anything else, the climate attracts and keeps people in this community.

This is just one of the findings from a three and a half month long public survey of the eastern slope conducted by the University of California's Community Design Center.

A public meeting at the Precita Center is being scheduled for August 12 to announce the compiled results of the survey. Slides, maps and other graphics will also be presented.

The purpose of the Community Design Center's study is three-fold: 1. How people perceive of their neighborhood as it is now. 2. How people feel about the changes taking place. 3. Establishing community goals and guidelines for the future development of the eastern slope.

Volunteers will be asked at the Precita Center meeting to join the Eastern Slope Improvement Committee. This group will come up with suggested community goals and guidelines. The study should be complete by the end of this December.

The Community Design Center team will supply the technical information and expertise necessary for reasonable and feasible guidelines. Their first priority has been the now completed public opinion survey.

While final results are still being keypunched and tabulated, some early conclusions have been reached:

Besides the weather, inexpensive housing and the quiet and secluded character of some sections also attract and keep people in the area.

It becomes obvious from the survey that Safeway on Mission is the major food supplier for the area. Perhaps this is why so many express the desire for community gardens.

Other problems mentioned are predictable: crime, congestion, noise, parking, access, dog droppings, dirty streets, and a lack of children's play areas. What is surprising is the number of people who put the blame for these problems on an unresponsive city government.

Not too surprising is the fact that the future development of vacant land is of much more concern to residents living adjacent to empty lots than it is to those living in filled-in sections.

There is a marked division among those residents approving of the influx of new people who are upgrading property, and those who complain this same influx is increasing problems and raising prices of homes and rents.

Traffic and difficulty in crossing Army Street are often mentioned. Drugs and crime are often associated with teenagers in Precita Park. Yet people generally like the area and their neighbors.

The five person Community Design Center team includes Dena Belzer, Javier Castruita, Debbie Lane, Steve Ishino and Chuck Higueras. They are led by director Chuck Turner.

All the team members have been impressed with the ethnic and economic variety they've encountered on Bernal Heights.

They are presently surveying owners of the 130 vacant lots on the eastern slope to determine their attitudes towards the community and their intentions for the vacant property.

Other topics to be included in the six month study include: Public Services--utilities, fire, police, schools, street cleaning; Community Centers and Organizations; existing parks and undeveloped open space; land use both residential and commercial; traffic circulation; natural features; and urban design.

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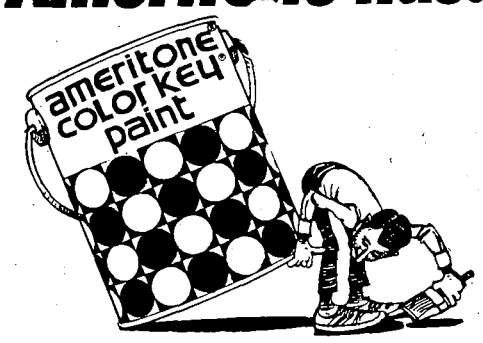

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ELSIE STREET

Continued from page 1

ing Drawing Checker, United Airlines, Engineering Department. Employed by United Airlines for 35 years.

3) Charlene Martinez. Homeowner - 150A Elsie Street. 36 years in the neighborhood. Housewife/mother.

(4) Roger Borgenicht. Renter - 63A Winfield Street. 2 years in the neighborhood. Designer/builder. Director, Elsie Street Development Study. Worked as architect with various firms. Building in the Bay Area for last 6 years. (5) Mark Frauenfelder. Home owner - 177 Elsie Street. 10 years in the neighborhood. Staff Director, Community Mental Health Board.

The original Elsie Street Plan requested that notification of pending construction be made before permits were issued; and that notices would be sent to a rectangular area 1000' x 400', the building site being in this rectangular center. And that this notification principle would apply to all of Bernal Heights, for the simple reason that the hill has many vacant lots and poor streets which will need environmental consideration. The lack of such consideration can seriously affect adjacent areas and leave behind problems for several ensuing years.

This notification request was amended by the Planning Department to limit the notification process to a 100' radius; requested (not "required") posting on the site by the developer; and notification to the Building Review Board; and making it applicable only to Elsie Street. Mr. Rosenblatt explained that it had to be limited to the 100 block on Elsie Street at this time because of a future planned revision in notification procedures requested by the Board of Supervisors.

At this July 13 meeting, several opinions were expressed:

Sue Bierman - Planning Commissioner:

"This is a neighborhood that is one of the most unusual neighborhoods in the City. It has a lot of undeveloped land. It has undeveloped streets. It is charting a new course, by some people who live there, who live there, getting in on the action."

* * *

Mr. Alvarez - owner of 7 lots on Elsie Street:

"[Lot owners] I have contacted said they received no notice. They knew nothing of it. I have questions. How many negative replies were received from the Elsie Street owners? Where are the records? Where is the documentation? Where are the minutes? I was told this group made decisions at very informal open meetings. And that's how these things have been going. I am saying that there was an error here."

* * *

Ed Weiner - owner of a lot on Elsie Street:

"I'm not sure if it really matters what the people who own vacant lots on Elsie Street really think about this Plan because as I understand it, the whole idea is what the neighborhood -- what the people who live there -- think about it. I don't like the idea of a neighborhood review board, but I can go before them. I want to build my house. I intend to live here.

JOBS

Supervisor Lee Dolson is attempting to convince Lucky's supermarket chain to move into the empty Albertson's Market on Alemany. As part of his effort, and to assure that Bernal Heights residents get any subsequent jobs, he has requested that any unemployed persons with 2-3 years experience as cashiers contact his office. The number is 558-2943.

Other potential job possibilities for Bernal residents come from the Progress Foundation which is trying to locate a halfway house in the Bernal Heights neighborhood. The jobs are Program Coordinator, probably requiring an MA; 3/4 time secretary/bookeeper(hiring immediately); and RN, preferably with psych experience; a driver counselor; 11 counselors(would like 50% over 50 years old, and definitely will train); a part-time maintenance person; and a part-time nutritionist.

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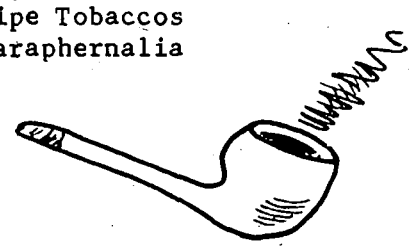
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